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2019 OCT 18 01:47 PM
KING COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK
E-FILED
CASE #: 19-2-27646-1 SEA

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR KING COUNTY

KEVIN HANRAHAN, individually,

Plaintiff,

v.

KING COUNTY, and DEFENDANT DOES
1-10

Defendants.

NO.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

COMES NOW the above-named plaintiff, through ALLIANCE LAW GROUP and Nelson C. Fraley II as counsel, against the above-named defendant(s) alleging and claiming as follows:

I. PARTIES

1.1 Plaintiff Kevin Hanrahan is a resident of Snohomish County.

1.2 Defendant King County is a political subdivision of the State of Washington. Among other things, King County operates the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (KCDOAJD), which provides jail services for inmates confined in the King County Jail.

1 1.3 Defendant Does 1-10 are KCDOAJD employees who, at all times
2 relevant hereto, were acting under color of law as employees and agents of King
3 County, through their employment as jail workers for the KCDOAJD. Plaintiff is not yet
4 aware of the identities of the individual KCDOAJD employees responsible for the
5 classification and housing of inmate Hawthorne (#216016204), or the Shift
6 Commander responsible for housing Hawthorne and Plaintiff.
7

8 II. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

9
10 2.1 This Court has both personal and subject matter jurisdiction and venue
11 is properly in King County.

12 2.2 A claim for damages against King County was properly served and filed
13 with the King County Clerk of the Council on August 15, 2019. More than 60 days
14 have elapsed since the claim was filed and all other prerequisites to suit have been
15 satisfied.
16

17 2.3 Mr. Hanrahan brings these claims under Washington law.
18

19 III. FACTS RELEVANT TO THIS CAUSE

20 3.1 On August 16, 2016, Plaintiff was attacked by his cellmate Hawthorne.
21 Plaintiff was repeatedly and violently struck in the face and body by Hawthorne.
22

23 3.2 During the violent attack, Hawthorne struck Plaintiff with such force that
24 Plaintiff required surgery to repair the injuries he sustained at the hands of the brutal
25 attack by Hawthorne.
26

1 3.3 In the days following the attack Plaintiff was not permitted proper medical
2 attention. The first opportunity given to him to seek medical attention was two days
3 following the attack. Thus, he was not seen by a medical staff member until August
4 18, 2016. No diagnostic images were taken despite obvious bruising and swelling
5 around Plaintiff's neck, head and face.

6
7 3.4 Plaintiff filed a medical grievance on August 22, 2016 seeking additional
8 medical care due to his continued difficulty in breathing. An x-ray was finally taken on
9 August 23, 2016.

10 3.5 Plaintiff was not told of the results of the x-ray until August 27, 2016. The
11 report indicated a normal x-ray in light of a fractured nose.

12 3.6 Plaintiff continued to complain to KCDOAJD staff of his injuries,
13 symptoms and medical difficulties and on September 23, 2016 was transferred to
14 Harborview Hospital to be seen by medical staff.

15
16 3.7 On September 23, 2016, Harborview staff noted that Plaintiff suffered
17 "nasal trauma 6 wks ago". Based upon medical observation, Plaintiff was determined
18 to have "left worse than right nasal obstruction and a new concave deformity to his left
19 nasal wall. It was also noted that Plaintiff complained of frontal headaches "and new
20 floaters in left eye since trauma".

21 3.8 Plaintiff was diagnosed with a nasal fracture as a result of "blow to face
22 6 wks ago".

23
24 3.9 Prior to the brutal events of August 16, 2016, Plaintiff brought his
25 concerns of his cellmate to KCDOAJD on several occasions. Despite the concerns,
26 neither Plaintiff nor Hawthorne were separated from one another.

1 3.10 After the brutal attack, Plaintiff nor Hawthorne were separated from being
2 on the same floor. They were each housed on the same floor after the attack. Plaintiff
3 continued to raise concerns of his safety to KCDOAJD.

4 IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

5 4.1 Plaintiff realleges the allegations made in the preceding paragraphs and
6 incorporates the same as if fully set forth herein.

7
8 4.2 Defendants, each of them, all as employees of King County working
9 under color of law and during the scope of their employment, were negligent in their
10 classification and housing of Hawthorne and Plaintiff.

11 4.3 Defendants were negligent in failing to follow their own procedures and
12 policies and failed to reasonably protect Plaintiff from the foreseeable attack of a violent
13 inmate. King County is liable for the negligent acts and omissions of those employees
14 and agents under vicarious liability principles.

15
16 4.4 King County has a special relationship with inmates, creating an
17 affirmative duty to provide for inmate health, welfare, and safety. This includes a duty
18 to protect an inmate from injury by third parties. Defendants acts and omissions and
19 the acts and omissions of yet to be named Defendant Does, breached that duty and
20 such breach was a direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

21
22 4.5 Where a jail officer fails to take measure to protect a pretrial inmate from
23 assaults by other inmates in light of substantial evidence that the inmate is at high risk
24 and the inmate is injured by the officer's failures, the officer violates the inmates
25 constitutional and due process rights.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests a judgment against Defendants and Defendant Does 1-10 as follows:

1. General and special damages, including for pain and suffering, in an amount to be proven at trial;
2. Reasonable attorney fees as available through all applicable laws;
3. All applicable interest on the judgment; and
4. Other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated at University Place, Washington this 10th day of October, 2019.

ALLIANCE LAW GROUP, P.S.

By 

NELSON C. FRALEY II, WSBA No. 26742
Attorney for Plaintiff, KEVIN HANRAHAN